

THE CHANGING CALIFORNIA

THE 2006 POLICY STATEMENT AND PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

INTRODUCTION

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is charged with the creation and maintenance of Forest and Rangeland Policy for the State of California. A policy statement is required by statute following a comprehensive assessment by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's (CDF) Fire and Range Assessment Program (FRAP). The assessment was completed at the end of 2003.

The purpose of the policy statement is to identify and communicate the Board's strategic direction and goals, to provide the foundation for future planning, and to establish the framework for the State's forest policies.

The Board has carefully considered the assessment, and this document is intended to fulfill the Board's obligations. The policy has five main sections:

- 1) The overview of the current status and issues facing forest and rangelands in California,
- 2) The Board's responsibilities under statute, and its mission,
- 3) The vision and values the Board utilizes and aspires to,
- 4) The Board's goals and standards for achieving that vision, and
- 5) The work plans that assure accountability to the achievement and maintenance of the forest policy.

SECTION 1

OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION AND TRENDS

California has undergone sweeping changes in the two decades, and those changes have had a profound impact on its landscape. Of these changes, none has produced a greater impact on our forested landscapes and rangelands than the explosion in population growth, an increase that is not expected to abate in the foreseeable future.

Since 1980, the population has grown by more than 10 million people, and trends indicate that it will grow another 10 million by 2020. This will mean 45 million people needing to utilize California's resources, including those of the forested landscape and rangelands.

California already consumes far more than what these lands produce, resulting in the State relying on imports to meet its needs. If California were to utilize all of its lands fully, it could be self-sufficient, but the people of California now express values that place a higher emphasis for environmental concerns over commodity production.

The burgeoning population will need housing, and increasingly, this affordable (and desirable) housing is located in the forested landscape and rangelands. This has resulted in the permanent loss of these areas through conversion, and the loss of the values they provide California. In addition, it places more of the population in areas that will be frequented by wildfire as part of the natural ecosystem process. This will place additional strain on the protection of lives and property.

As this population expands, it will require additional water. Over eighty percent of the state's runoff originates in the forested landscape. This non-substitutable commodity is California's most economically valuable resource, and demand for it will increase as the population grows.

Given these needs, it is imperative that the forested landscape and rangelands remain available to continue to produce the commodities that California will need now and in the future. The economic incentive for the private landowner to continue to manage their lands to provide these commodities, however, is rapidly disappearing. Landowners today can garner very lucrative economic benefit from the conversion of their lands to other uses, primarily development for housing.

Twenty five years ago, the economics, particularly in the forest products industry, allowed these lands to be managed for their commodity outputs, and avoid their loss through conversion. At that time, over one hundred sawmills existed, while

today there are less than forty. Without a viable forest products industry, no market exists for the products they produce, and therefore, no economic incentive to continue managing them.

The loss of this infrastructure has several reasons. First, in early 1990's the federal government essentially abandoned timber production on its lands in California. The federal timber sale program went from producing 2 billion board feet annually to virtually nothing. This resulted in a 50% drop in harvested volume in the state. Secondly, global markets began exporting their products to California, and with their lower labor costs, put further pressure on the industry. Lastly, increasing regulation in California to protect environmental values negated the one advantage the California industry had, that of proximity to markets.

In large part, the industry was, and continues to be, located in rural California. With its reduction, most of the infrastructure that remains is located near major transportation corridors. The impact of the reduction in the industries size has had significant ramifications for the rural economy. Counties once dependent on a viable industry now have little means to support their own infrastructure, and societal problems such as unemployment have increased.

The State can either accept these conditions, or it can create innovative solutions to address them. The Board believes that innovation is not only possible, it is imperative. Below are the key issues identified by the Board. If these are addressed, California will truly be a leader in forest policy.

THE KEY ISSUES

- 1) **Integrate environmental, economic, and social goals:** The environmental sustainability of California's forest and rangelands is improving with growing inventories, diverse forest structure, and a greater attention to maintaining valuable biological legacies. Continued progress will require continued investment and innovation in resource management from both the private and public sectors. Private sector investment in land ownerships and businesses selling goods and services generates employment and local government revenues in rural areas but is dependent on continued market-based profitability. Public sector investments are dependent on the financial support of an increasingly urban population and the social value to both urban and rural communities and stakeholders.
- 2) **Conserve the Working/Private landscape:** The Working/Private landscapes are those lands managed for a wide range of purposes with commodity production as the major economic basis for ownership. Historically, the Working/ Private landscape has provided commodities, jobs, open space, and ecological services to the public at little direct cost. These lands have a history of investment and active management. With limited public understanding of management activities, low profitability for timber and livestock operations, and increasing regulatory costs the strong pressures for parcelization, fragmentation, and land use conversion accelerate. New ways to keep the Working/Private landscape viable while providing a wide range of public values are necessary.
- 3) **Improve watershed conditions:** Improving watershed conditions are vital to restoring functional ecosystems across California. Many watersheds have historic legacy impacts, ongoing land use changes, and episodic intense wildfire that degrade water quality and aquatic habitat conditions. In degraded watersheds, a key policy challenge includes addressing linkages between current land uses, natural catastrophic events, and investments in restoration.
- 4) **Reduce wildfire threats:** High fuel loads, the growing extent and intensity of wildfires, and increased population in forests and rangelands all increase the risk of wildfire to people and resources. This threat requires continuing focus on the management of forest and rangeland fires, both catastrophic wildfire and prescribed burns.
- 5) **Reduce loss of productivity and forest health:** Timberland growing stock volumes and densities have been increasing as a result of reduced harvesting (most noticeably on federal lands) and exclusion of wildfire. While this trend has had beneficial impacts for many terrestrial and aquatic habitats it has also led to an increasing inventory of unutilized

timber and dense forest stands. This results in a lost opportunity to generate wood products used by Californians, and also increases detrimental impacts such as insect and pest outbreaks, catastrophic fire, and the loss of biological diversity for species dependent on open, less dense forest settings.

- 6) **Meet the complexities of management in metropolitan forests and rangelands:** Forests and rangelands near urban centers, along with those adjacent to rural communities, are the most visible and are of the greatest value to the people near these areas. Management is needed for forest health improvement and wildfire risk reduction. Addressing the diverse social concerns is necessary to integrate positive experiences into the lives of neighbors.
- 7) **Address continued residential land use pressures:** Land conversion for new housing continues on rangelands and forests near metropolitan areas and in the wildland urban interface. Most of the development has a low density of houses per acre so the land impact is considerably greater than the population impact. This type of development removes natural vegetation and breaks rangelands and forests into smaller units. This reduces habitat value for wildlife species dependent on unfragmented natural vegetation and makes it more difficult to manage the remaining larger parcels. California's population will continue to expand and will need to be accommodated with the least negative impact to a high quality and safe environment.
- 8) **Improve policy coordination and integration:** Multiple regulations often impede progress towards desired goals, discourage investment, incur substantial taxpayer funded regulatory costs, and add uncertainty that increases costs to landowners and other stakeholders. Better coordination and integration will be essential to effectively match appropriate tools to the many challenges.

SECTION 2

Responsibilities and Mission

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's Statutory Responsibilities are:

1. **Establish** and **administer** forest and rangeland policy for the State of California, and
2. **Protect** and **represent** the state's interest in all forestry matters, and
3. Provide **direction** and **guidance** to the Director and the Department on fire protection and resource management, and
4. **Accomplish** a comprehensive regulatory program for forestry and fire protection, and
5. **Conduct** its duties to **inform and respond** to the people of the State of California.

The **Mission** statement expresses the strategic purpose and the functions of the Board.

It is the Mission of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to:

Lead California in developing policies and programs that promote:

1. *Environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of California's of public and private forests and rangelands.*
2. *A fire protection system that serves the public interest.*

SECTION 3

VISION AND VALUES

Vision

The **Vision** statement is a description of what the Board sees as the outcome of successful implementation of the strategies the Board undertakes.

To achieve our mission, it is the Vision of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection that California will have:

- 1. Healthy forests providing a sustainable flow of environmental, economic, and social outputs and benefits.*
- 2. Public and private investment to create healthy forests.*
- 3. Statewide forest resource policies that are coordinated among California's natural resources agencies.*
- 4. An open public process that provides a forum for the citizens of the State.*
- 5. An engaged citizenry that supports sustainable forestry, and contributes to its achievement.*

Values

The **Values** statement describes the attributes that will form the basis for the Board's decisions.

The Values that guide the Board in its decisions are:

1. *The protection of the lives, property, and natural resources of the people of California.*
2. *To protect, sustain, and enhance the natural resources of the state with a comprehensive and integrated approach to resource management, fire prevention, and fire suppression.*
3. *To address the needs of communities through partnerships with local, state, and federal governments.*
4. *To adapt, innovate, and continually improve our methods and procedures to address the rapidly changing conditions of California.*
5. *To provide leadership in forestry and fire protection and accountability for the Board's and the Department's performance.*
6. *To perform at all times with professionalism and integrity.*

SECTION 4

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

Goals

The **Goals** are a description of the direction in which the Board the Board will move with its objectives and strategies.

Biological Diversity Goal:

Contribute to preservation, conservation, and maintenance of wildlife and native plant resources, so that the beneficial uses of those resources, both intrinsic and ecological, are available to the citizens of the State.

Productive Capacity Goal:

Encourage prudent and responsible forest resource management calculated to serve the public's need for timber and other forest products, while giving consideration to the public's need for watershed protection, fisheries and wildlife, and recreational opportunities alike in this and future generations.

Forest Health Goal:

Protect, maintain, and enhance the health of California's forest ecosystems within the context of natural disturbance and active management.

Soil Conservation and Water Quality Goal:

Protect, maintain, and enhance the soil and water resources of the State of California's forest and rangelands.

Forests and Climate Goal:

Protect, maintain, and enhance the State of California's forestlands to insure a positive impact of the climate.

Socio-Economic Well Being Goal:

Create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony to fulfill the social and economic requirements of present and future generations.

Governance Goal:

Create a policy and regulatory system that encourages prudent management to serve the public needs.

OBJECTIVES and STRATEGIES

Criteria 1, Biological Diversity

Goal:

Contribute to preservation, conservation, and maintenance of wildlife and native plant resources, so that the beneficial uses of those resources, both intrinsic and ecological, are available to the citizens of the State.

Objectives:

- 1. Reduce wildlife habitat structure gaps**
- 2. Reduce decline in native species**
- 3. Increase biological diversity**

Indices:

Ecosystem Diversity:

- 1) Extent of area by forest type relative to total forest area;
- 2) Extent of area by forest type and by age class or successional stage;
- 3) Extent of area by forest type in protected area categories as defined by IUCN2 or other classification systems;
- 4) Extent of areas by forest type in protected areas defined by age class or successional stage;
- 5) Fragmentation of forest types; Species Diversity:
- 6) The number of forest dependent species;
- 7) The status (threatened, rare, vulnerable, endangered, or extinct) of forest dependent species at risk of not maintaining viable breeding populations;

Genetic Diversity:

- 8) Number of forest dependent species occupying a small portion of former range;
- 9) Population levels of representative species from diverse habitats

Strategies:

Actions for wildlife habitat structure gaps

- A. Provide incentives for creation of open canopy and late seral stage habitat on non-federal lands.
- B. Strengthen analysis of cumulative impacts of land uses on terrestrial habitat.

- C. Improve mapping and monitoring technologies and systems.
- D. Strengthen collaboration between regulatory agencies, and public industry in addressing wildlife habitat concerns.
- E. Use long-term plans for larger scale analysis and monitoring schemes.
- F. Expand and focus use of conservation easements and incentives.
- G. Develop focused research program on State Forests for wildlife habitat.

Policy options for decline in some native species

- H. Continue to develop HCPs, NCCPs, or other long-term plans that provide for landscape level analysis, protection, and resource use.
- I. Develop additional reimbursement mechanisms that preserve habitat.

Policy options for using all landscapes to meet biological diversity goals

- J. Recognize the continuing importance of ecosystem services from the Working landscape and support innovations in approaches.

Criteria 2, Productive Capacity

Goal:

Encourage prudent and responsible forest resource management calculated to serve the public's need for timber and other forest products, while giving consideration to the public's need for watershed protection, fisheries and wildlife, and recreational opportunities alike in this and future generations.

Objectives:

- 1. Ensure a continuing viable forest products sector for California.**
- 2. Reduce dependency on the importation of timber products.**

Indices:

- 10) Area of forest land and net area of forest land available for timber production;
- 11) Total growing stock of both merchantable and non-merchantable tree species on forest land available for timber production;
- 12) The area and growing stock of plantations of native and exotic species;
- 13) Annual removal of wood products compared to the volume determined to be sustainable;
- 14) Annual removal of non-timber forest products (e.g., fur bearers, berries, mushrooms, game), compared to the level determined to be sustainable

Strategies:

- A. Consider alternative land trust arrangements retain the productive capacity of forests and prevent either conversion to non-timber uses or full administrative/regulatory exclusion from timber management.
- B. Increase active management in forest stands at highest risk due to increased stocking levels. Prioritization of management activities can coincide with meeting other objectives such as fire reduction near urban areas or adaptation of stands to meet biological diversity needs.

Criteria 3, Forest Health

Goal:

Protect, maintain, and enhance the health of California's forest ecosystems within the context of natural disturbance and active management.

Objectives:

- 1. Reduce the occurrence of catastrophic wildfire**
- 2. Reduce the occurrence of catastrophic pest and disease outbreaks**

Indices:

- 15) Area and percent of forest affected by processes or agents beyond the range of historic variation;
- 16) Area and percent of forest land subjected to levels of specific air pollutants or ultraviolet B that may cause negative impacts on the forest ecosystem;
- 17) Area and percent of forest land with diminished biological components indicative of changes in fundamental ecological processes or ecological continuity

Strategies:

Land Management Activities

- A. Maintain support for urban forestry and stream restoration programs.
- B. Enhance cooperation between agencies and groups with an interest in metropolitan forests.
- C. Retain strong fuel reduction, fire protection, and pest control programs.
- D. Improve reporting of activities, such as acquisition of open space, to a statewide database.
- E. Enhance curriculum focus on metropolitan forest issues in forestry schools.
- F. Focus on achieving agreement on desired landscape goals and then address potential practices and conflicts.
- G. Learn from experiences of The Nature Conservancy, other non-profits, and regional parks on how to explain management needs.
- H. Review role of environmental certification in providing for broader acceptance of management tools.
- I. Provide for public input into decision making and monitoring.

- J. Strengthen skills of resource professionals regarding public involvement and public values.
- K. Continue strong support for focused management practices, such as fuel reduction and control of exotics and pests.

Land Development

- L. Maintain tax-related zoning.
- M. Focus part of local general plans and related project design on integration and protection of productive areas.
- N. Increase use of easements and land banks.
- O. Anticipate growth areas and focus them away from the most productive forests and rangelands.

Wildfire

- P. Maintain support for Fire Safe Councils.
- Q. Expand support for biomass industry based on its public values such as reduction of fuels and forest wastes.
- R. Strengthen fuel breaks and other fuel related parts of project design in land use plans.
- S. Increase funding for pre-fire projects.
- T. Develop arrangements for long-term fuel supplies from federal lands.
- U. Maintain research funding for utilization of small logs, biofuels, etc.
- V. Continue to work with California Air Resources Board regions to meet air quality standards and maintain sufficient burn days.
- W. Streamline environmental review processes related to fuel reduction.
- X. Balance investment priorities between areas with many acres of significant fire threat (Sierra and Modoc) with regions of few acres but many houses threatened.
- Y. Substantial investment will be required to reintroduce fire into the forests and rangelands to manage threats to ecosystems and people. These investments include information systems to support planning and decisions, site specific and regional project planning, implementation of burning operations, and implementation of mechanical vegetation operations aimed at reducing hazardous fuel build up.

Pests and Disease

- Z. Maintain and improve early detection capability.
- AA. Develop overall plan to guide forest and rangeland pest research and control, including public involvement.
- BB. Expand research on control methods.
- CC. Maintain California Department of Food and Agriculture quarantine capacity.
- DD. Enhance support for County Agricultural Commissioners, University of California researchers, and landowner participation.

Exotic and Invasive Species

- EE. Strengthen support for California Department of Food and Agriculture program on prevention, eradication, and education.
- FF. Focus on the development of control methods, both chemical and non-chemical.
- GG. Enhance support for county Agricultural Commissioners, University of California researchers, and landowner participation.
- HH. Promote efficient and effective control programs and strategies characterized by efforts that prevent invasions and quickly detect new occurrences so that the species may be removed or contained before spreading.

Air Pollution

- II. Continue to work with California Air Resource Boards and local Air Pollution Control Districts to address concerns over use of prescribed fire and particulate matter from forest and rangeland management activities.
- JJ. Maintain periodic assessments of impacts of ozone and other pollutants on forest and rangeland vegetation and aquatic resources.
- KK. Develop improved modeling of air quality impacts of wild and prescribed fire.
- LL. Promote development of fuel reduction and forest management alternatives that minimize use of fire and production of air contaminants.

Criteria 4, Soil Conservation and Water Quality

Goal:

Protect, maintain, and enhance the soil and water resources of the State of California's forest and rangelands.

Objectives:

- 1. Control soil erosion to protect resources and forest productivity.**
- 2. Protect the beneficial uses of water.**

Indices:

- 18) Area and percent of forest land with significant soil erosion;
- 19) Area and percent of forest land managed primarily for protective functions;
- 20) Percent of stream kilometers in forested catchments with altered stream flow and timing;
- 21) Area and percent of forest land with significantly diminished soil organic matter;
- 22) Area and percent of forest land with significant compaction resulting from human activities;
- 23) Percent of water bodies in forest areas with significant variance of biological diversity;
- 24) Percent of water bodies in forest areas with significant variation pH, dissolved oxygen, levels of chemicals, sedimentation, or temperature change;
- 25) Area and percent of forest land experiencing an accumulation of persistent toxic substances

Strategies:

- A. Continue support for watershed assessments using common watershed models and risk assessment capacity, enhancing cooperative mapping and monitoring techniques, and using long-term plans for large scale analysis and monitoring schemes.
- B. Continue monitoring, especially to link in-stream conditions to hillslope processes. Incorporate in-stream monitoring technologies to track effectiveness of regulations and restoration efforts.
- C. Increase options for long-term plans (such as Rangeland Water Quality Management Plans) by forest and range landowners and connect plans to eased regulatory process requirements at the plan level.
- D. Foster collaboration between regulatory agencies, the general public, and private landowners including integrating Timber Harvest Plan review and rules and Total Maximum Daily Load requirements.
- E. Maintain funding and increase landowner incentives for restoration projects and maintain support for urban stream restoration.

- F. Use the Demonstration State Forests as a venue for testing and demonstrating watershed assessment approaches and restoration techniques.
- G. Conduct focused research on the dynamics of fish populations and their linkages to instream conditions and land uses.

Criteria 5, Forests and Climate

Goal:

Protect, maintain, and enhance the State of California's forestlands to insure a positive impact of the climate.

Objectives:

- 1. Insure the contribution of the forested landscape in the reduction of greenhouse gases.**

Indices:

- 26) Total forest ecosystem biomass and carbon pool, and if appropriate, by forest type, age class, and successional stages;
- 27) Contribution of forest ecosystems to the total global carbon budget, including absorption and release of carbon;
- 28) Contribution of forest products to the global carbon budget

Strategies:

- A. Promote conservation of forest lands and vigorous stands, which can significantly contribute to large-scale air pollution reduction. Maintain healthy forests which are vital to protecting resources from air borne waste impacts and which provide opportunities to contribute to pollution reduction through carbon sequestration.
- B. Promote forest health and conserve forest lands from land use changes by providing financial opportunities to land owners who are managing their lands in ways that positively influence carbon storage.
- C. Create markets for carbon and other ecosystem services to provide additional funds to landowners.
- D. Refine carbon sequestration accounting and carbon trading mechanisms.
- E. Maintain and adjust capacity and flexibility of emergency services related to natural process such as flooding, disease, and wildfire.
- F. Develop a contingency plan for ecological impacts of climate change, including seed banks and land trades adjusted to ranges of vegetation types.

Criteria 6, Socio-Economic Well Being

Goal:

Create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony to fulfill the social and economic requirements of present and future generations.

Objectives:

- 1. Create conditions that allow for a continued and predictable commitment of timberland and investment for growing and harvesting timber.**

Indices:

Production and Consumption:

- 29) Value and volume of wood and wood products production, including value added through downstream processing;
- 30) Value and quantities of production of non-wood forest products;
- 31) Supply and consumption of wood and wood products, including consumption per capita;
- 32) Value of wood and non-wood products production as percentage of GDP;
- 33) Degree of recycling of forest products;
- 34) Supply and consumption/use of non-wood products;

Recreation and Tourism:

- 35) Area and percent of forest land managed for general recreation and tourism;
- 36) Number and type of facilities available for general recreation and tourism;
- 37) Number of visitor days attributed to recreation and tourism, in relation to population and forest area;

Investment in the Forest Sector:

- 38) Value of investment, including investment in forest growing, forest health and management, planted forests, wood processing, recreation and tourism;
- 39) Level of expenditure on research and development, and education;
- 40) Extension and use new and improved technologies;
- 41) Rates of return on investment;

Cultural, Social, and Spiritual Needs and Values:

- 42) Area and percent of forest land managed to protect the range of cultural, social, and spiritual needs and values;
- 43) Non-consumptive use forest values;

Employment and Community Needs:

- 44) Direct and indirect employment in the forest sector;
- 45) Average wage rates and injury rates in major employment categories;
- 46) Viability and adaptability to changing economic conditions;
- 47) Area and percent of forest land used for subsistence purposes

Strategies:

Policy options for rising consumption and statewide limitations on California commodity output

- A. Develop an economic strategy that builds on comparative advantages of California industries vis a vis local and international economies.
- B. Promote more aggressive tax policies to favor development of innovative forest and rangeland technologies to meet production and conservation goals.
- C. Foster development of markets for new products and services, certification of wood and livestock products, and market mechanisms for carbon sequestration.
- D. Broaden remuneration methods to landowners for non-commodity products that complement commodity production.

Policy options for meeting changing demands for recreation and open space

- E. Develop a coordinated plan to define needed statewide recreational expansion on forests and rangelands with protection of environment.
- F. Promote local community and government efforts to acquire and managed additional open space and recreational lands.
- G. Encourage relevant expansion of private land and service capacities.

Policy options for meeting costs of resource protection

- H. Develop an overall policy for California resources that integrates approaches to fuel reduction, fire detection and protection, and prevention and control of exotics and pests.
- I. Continue to provide wildland fire protection sufficient to protect watersheds, habitat, riparian areas, flood-prone areas, and other factors.
- J. Maintain state and federal capacities to respond to pests and public safety threats.

Policy options for incentives for private production of ecosystem services

- K. By policy, recognize the overall role of private landowners in producing ecosystem services.
- L. Focus on long-term plans and conservation easement conditions that clarify land tenure questions and are approved as alternatives under Forest Practice Rules that reduce compliance costs to landowners.
- M. Examine use of systems of environmental management that depends on certified, insured and guaranteed operations rather than a permit with civil enforcement.

- N. Develop watershed approaches to permits and restoration activities that reward landowners for attaining socially desired future conditions.
- O. Refine trading and credit system for habitat provision, pollution reduction, and carbon sequestration.

Policy options for maintaining large landholdings in resource industries

- P. Recognize the continued importance of large scale unfragmented ownerships in the working landscape that are dependent on resource based activities.
- Q. Develop analysis of profitability limits at the industry levels and examine if state policies can be improved to assure both private and public benefits of large unfragmented holdings.
- R. Maintain tax policies that encourage retention of land ownerships in parcels that are economic to manage.
- S. Identify where new regulatory approaches are possible such as the use of environmental certification or long-range plans.
- T. Track the levels of management that will be permitted on federal lands and how they relate to overall resource supplies and protection strategies.
- U. Strengthen monitoring and adaptive management approaches for individual parcels as well as larger landscapes.
- V. Develop strategies to limit litigation costs by focusing on topics of common agreement such as exotics, pests, fuel reduction, and restoration activities.

Policy options for weak economies in local communities

- W. At the state level, promote diversification and strengthening of these communities and local economies.
- X. Foster community capacity to build restoration and other grants into support for local forest products, range, recreation, and ecosystem service industries.
- Y. Continue to leverage existing local watershed groups and Fire Safe Councils.
- Z. At the state level, develop additional supports to biomass industry.
- AA. Identify, make available, and guarantee fuel supplies from some sections of public lands.

Criteria 7, Governance

Goal:

Create a policy and regulatory system that encourages prudent management to serve the public needs.

Goals:

- 1. Insure the continued productivity of timberlands.**
- 2. Provide the public with a regulatory system that is accountable and logical.**
- 3. Move the focus of the policy and regulatory system to outcomes, not process.**

Indices:

Legal Framework:

- 48) Clarifies property rights, provides for appropriate land tenure arrangements, recognizes customary and traditional rights of indigenous people, and provides means of resolving property disputes by due process;
- 49) Provides for periodic forest-related planning, assessment, and policy review;
- 50) Provides opportunities for public participation in public policy and decision-making related to forests and public access to information;
- 51) Encourages best practice codes for forest management;
- 52) Provides for the management of forests to conserve special environmental, cultural, social and/or scientific values;

Institutional Framework:

- 53) Provide for public involvement activities and public education, awareness, and extension programs;
- 54) Undertake and implement periodic forest-related planning, assessment, and policy review;
- 55) Develop and maintain human resource skills across relevant disciplines;
- 56) Develop and maintain efficient physical infrastructure to facilitate the supply of forest products and services;
- 57) Enforce laws, regulations and guidelines;

Economic Framework:

- 58) Investment and taxation policies and a regulatory environment which recognize the long-term nature of investments and permit the flow of capital in and out of the forest sector;
- 59) Non-discriminatory trade policies for forest products;

Capacity to Measure and Monitor Changes:

- 60) Availability and extent of up-to-date data and statistics;

- 61) Scope, frequency, and statistical reliability of forest inventories, assessments, monitoring and other relevant information;
- 62) Compatibility with other countries in measuring, monitoring, and reporting on indicators;

Research and Development:

- 63) Development of scientific understanding of forest ecosystem characteristics and functions;
- 64) Development of methodologies to measure and integrate environmental and social costs and benefits into markets and public policies;
- 65) New technologies and the capacity to assess the socioeconomic consequences associated;
- 66) Enhancement of ability to predict impacts of human intervention on forests;
- 67) Ability to predict impacts on forests of possible climate change.

Strategies:

Policy options for levels of regulatory oversight and policy integration

- A. Conduct an analysis of the impact of overlapping mandates and review processes to create an efficient structure.
- B. Connect policies for investment in energy and carbon sequestration to landowner incentives.
- C. Strengthen ability to use long term plans and forest certification to meet rules.
- D. Examine use of system of environmental management that depends on certified, insured and guaranteed operations rather than a permit with civil enforcement.

Policy options for conflicts over forest and rangeland management practices

- E. Focus on achieving agreement on desired landscape goals and then address potential practices and conflicts.
- F. Learn from experiences of The Nature Conservancy, other non-profits, and regional parks on how to explain management needs.
- G. Review role of environmental certification in providing for broader acceptance of management tools.
- H. Provide for public input and decision making and monitoring.
- I. Strengthen skills of resource professionals regarding public involvement and values.
- J. Continue strong support for focused management practices, such as fuel reduction and control of exotics and pests.

Policy options for limited coordination in research and information sharing

- K. Develop overall forest and rangeland research plan for California.
- L. Increase use of web-based portals for public access.
- M. Maintain the forest and rangeland extension functions at University of California and applied programs at California State University.
- N. Continue to hold research symposia to share results.
- O. Increase foundation support for research.

Policy options for standardized, comprehensive information systems

- P. Develop and maintain a system of recording easement boundaries and purposes in a central database.
- Q. Continue to develop interagency agreements that set standards for information sharing and use